

Please amend the Claims to read as follows (a copy of the amended claims showing the additions and deletions appears at the end for the Examiner's convenience):

6. Process according to claim 2, wherein the carrier material is selected from the group of silica, α -alumina, silica alumina, zirconia, carbon (fibres), carbides, phosphates (such as aluminium phosphate).

7. Process according to claim 1, wherein the said space velocity is less than 12000 h^{-1} , preferably less than 10000 h^{-1} .

8. Process for the removal of sulphur contaminants from gas mixtures, said process comprising the steps of

converting part of the hydrogen sulphide into sulphur dioxide,

subjecting the mixture to the Claus reaction in at least one catalytic reactor,

subjecting the sulphur dioxide present in resultant gas mixture to a removal step using the process of claim 1.

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Group Art Unit:

Please add the following new claims 10-25:

10. Process according to claim 3, wherein the carrier material is selected from the group of silica, α -alumina, silica alumina, zirconia, carbon (fibres), carbides, phosphates (such as aluminium phosphate).

11. Process according to claim 4, wherein the carrier material is selected from the group of silica, α -alumina, silica alumina, zirconia, carbon (fibres), carbides, phosphates (such as aluminium phosphate).

12. Process according to claim 5, wherein the carrier material is selected from the group of silica, α -alumina, silica alumina, zirconia, carbon (fibres), carbides, phosphates (such as aluminium phosphate).

13. Process according to claim 2, wherein the said space velocity is less than 12000 h^{-1} , preferably less than 10000 h^{-1} .

14. Process according to claim 3, wherein the said space velocity is less than 12000 h^{-1} , preferably less than 10000 h^{-1} .

15. Process according to claim 4, wherein the said space velocity is less than 12000 h^{-1} , preferably less than 10000 h^{-1} .

16. Process according to claim 5, wherein the said space velocity is less than 12000 h^{-1} , preferably less than 10000 h^{-1} .

17. Process according to claim 6, wherein the said space velocity is less than 12000 h^{-1} , preferably less than 10000 h^{-1} .

a2 18. Process for the removal of sulphur contaminants from gas mixtures, said process comprising the steps of

converting part of the hydrogen sulphide into sulphur dioxide,

subjecting the mixture to the Claus reaction in at least one catalytic reactor,

subjecting the sulphur dioxide present in resultant gas mixture to a removal step using the process of claim 2.

19. Process for the removal of sulphur contaminants from gas mixtures, said process comprising the steps of

converting part of the hydrogen sulphide into sulphur dioxide,

subjecting the mixture to the Claus reaction in at least one catalytic reactor,

subjecting the sulphur dioxide present in resultant gas mixture to a removal step using the process of claim 3.

20. Process for the removal of sulphur contaminants from gas mixtures, said process comprising the steps of

converting part of the hydrogen sulphide into sulphur dioxide,

a2 subjecting the mixture to the Claus reaction in at least one catalytic reactor,

subjecting the sulphur dioxide present in resultant gas mixture to a removal step using the process of claim 4.

21. Process for the removal of sulphur contaminants from gas mixtures, said process comprising the steps of

converting part of the hydrogen sulphide into sulphur dioxide,

subjecting the mixture to the Claus reaction in at least one catalytic reactor,

subjecting the sulphur dioxide present in resultant gas mixture to a removal step using the process of claim 5.

22. Process for the removal of sulphur contaminants from gas mixtures, said process comprising the steps of

converting part of the hydrogen sulphide into sulphur dioxide,

subjecting the mixture to the Claus reaction in at least one catalytic reactor,

subjecting the sulphur dioxide present in resultant gas mixture to a removal step using the process of claim 6.

a² 23. Process for the removal of sulphur contaminants from gas mixtures, said process comprising the steps of

converting part of the hydrogen sulphide into sulphur dioxide,

subjecting the mixture to the Claus reaction in at least one catalytic reactor,

subjecting the sulphur dioxide present in resultant gas mixture to a removal step using the process of claim 7.

24. Process according to claim 12, wherein the said space velocity is less than 12000 h^{-1} , preferably less than 10000 h^{-1} .

25. Process for the removal of sulphur contaminants from gas mixtures, said process comprising the steps of

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converting part of the hydrogen sulphide into sulphur dioxide,

a2 subjecting the mixture to the Claus reaction in at least one catalytic reactor,

subjecting the sulphur dioxide present in resultant gas mixture to a removal step using the process of claim 24.
